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PERFORATION OF THE STOMACH.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—I copy from my case-book the following, which, if you think worthy of a place in your Journal, you are at liberty to publish.

January 31, 1841, I was called to visit Shepherd Barrett, of Hudson, N. H., who, I was informed by the messenger, had a violent attack of the colic. On my arrival, which was about one hour after the attack, I found the patient apparently laboring under the most excruciating pains. His age was 30; of a nervous sanguine temperament, and possessing great physical strength. I was informed that the patient, a few days previous to the attack, had complained of slight pain and sickness at the stomach soon after eating, and vomited his food. This slight indisposition did not prevent him from laboring as usual up to the time of the fatal attack. The symptoms were an acute pain in the epigastric and abdominal regions; an unusual fulness of the abdomen and tenderness on pressure; sickness at the stomach and vomiting; acute and lancinating pains in the shoulders; pulse 110, strong and full; tongue moist, and healthy in its appearance. The patient was bled copiously, but the bleeding afforded little if any relief. Immediately after, I administered a sufficient quantity of ipecac. to procure free vomiting, which operated well, throwing off the contents of the stomach, consisting of the food he had taken for supper. In four hours after my first visit, I called again, and found the patient had received no relief from the previous treatment. The pains continued unabated; pulse 130, feeble, irregular, and at times scarcely perceptible; a cold, clammy perspiration pervaded the entire body and extremities; mental faculties undisturbed and clear. All treatment proved ineffectual, and he died 24 hours from the attack.

Autopsy.—On opening the abdomen, the peritoneum presented a general redness throughout its whole extent; a large quantity of lymph deposited upon the peritoneum and intestines; strong adhesions of the intestines and agglutinations of the peritoneum. In the sides and small pelvis was found a quantity of reddish, turbid fluid, of a disagreeable odor; also a quantity of oil, infusion of senna and other medicines which had been taken, was found extravasated into the cavity of the abdomen, and about among the intestines. Finding the oil and other medicines extravasated, led me to suspect perforation of the stomach; and on examination of this organ, I found an opening on the lesser curvature of the stomach, about one inch and a half from the pylorus. The aperture through the coats

of the stomach was sufficiently large to admit a large-sized quill. Around this opening, the distance of an inch and a half, the coats of the stomach were thickened and indurated. The edges of the opening were perfectly smooth, presenting no tattered appearance that would arise from ulceration. The coats of the stomach at the edges of the orifice seemed to be beveled off from within outward, so that the mucous coat was wanting in extent more than the muscular—and the muscular more than the peritoneal coats. In short, the orifice was as smooth as if it had been punched out with a sharp-edged and circular instrument. The stomach, in all other respects, had a healthy appearance. None of the other bodily organs presented any appearance of disease.

J. G. GRAVES.

Nashua, N. H., April 7th, 1841.

THE MATCHLESS SANATIVE AND BRANDRETH'S PILLS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—The newspapers of the present day exhibit abundant proof that the invalid is beset with snares on every side. So long as he keeps his eyes shut and his mouth open, he will be liable to swallow some of the thousand humbugs which are continually buzzing about him. Be it then our object to open his eyes; having done this, he will not only shut his mouth as a matter of course, but will begin to apply his reasoning faculties to this subject as he does to all others; a salutary skepticism will then take the place of easy credulity, and he will be astonished that he ever could have been drawn into such a miserable gull-trap as that from which he has just escaped.

But inasmuch as it requires less effort to transcribe than to furnish original matter, I will favor you with a short extract from the *Daily Atlas*—not garbled, but entire. “*¶ The cures effected by the Matchless Sanative, we find have convinced the most prejudiced that the medicine is truly valuable.—tf.*” That the mystical letters *tf* are never appended to an editorial article, is perfectly understood by the editorial fraternity; but these small letters are heathen Greek to the luckless wight who swallows quack medicines. He takes this detached sentence as a passing editorial remark, a genuine outpouring of disinterested benevolence for the benefit of the afflicted; and this, too, from the very focus of correct intelligence. These two lines, from such a source, would inspire him with more confidence in the Matchless Sanative than whole columns of newspaper puffs from the vender of the article.

I have introduced the above quotation merely as a specimen of modern refinement in the science of puffing. I find no fault with the Matchless Sanative, because I believe it is always harmless in its effects. I have carefully watched its operation, and have never found it to injure the patient when taken in large doses or small. It is one of the *inerts*; a mere revenue article, like the puny potion of the homœopathist, or the silver shilling of a seventh son—a humbug, to be sure, but one that never stings. Not so with Brandreth's pills; these possess a power not to be trifled with. How much benefit may have been derived from their use, I know

not ; but that they have occasionally produced cases of formidable disease, admits of no doubt.

In the autumn of '38, typhoid fever prevailed pretty extensively in this vicinity. The attack was so gradual that the patient would frequently linger three or four days before he took his bed. During this period some would take a dose or two of Brandreth's pills, and then call the physician. This beginning was generally the prelude to a protracted case, attended with obstinate diarrhoea as a prominent symptom.

For the last year, I had heard very little of these pills until the 20th of the present month, when I was called in consultation with Dr. A., of Woburn, to visit a gentleman in that place, who was laboring under diarrhoea from the use of Brandreth's pills. As a fatal termination was expected, I requested the attending physician to send me an outline of the case in writing, which he has accordingly done. The following extract contains the leading circumstances of the case. "Mr. W. P. is 32 years of age. I was first called to visit him on the morning of the 17th of March. He informed me that his health had not been very good this spring ; that his bowels had been costive, and that on the evening of the 15th he had taken three of Brandreth's pills, which began to operate next morning, and had continued to do so to the time that I saw him. The discharges consisted of bloody mucus, and were attended with severe pain. By the use of anodynes the bowels became quiet, and remained so until five o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, when the discharges returned, and continued, without abatement, to the close of life. He died last evening."

This letter is dated March 31st. As it does not allude to a post-mortem examination, perhaps there was none made. When I saw this man, on the 20th, it appeared to me that the resources of medicine had already been exhausted upon him, and that little remained to be done but to wait for the closing scene. It seems proper for me to add, that the treatment adopted in this case by the attending physician, met my entire approbation and concurrence. I am aware that it is a general custom in reporting cases, to select such as are of rare occurrence, or of extraordinary character, and to give details of the treatment which led to a favorable termination. I have, for once, reversed the order. I have given a hasty sketch of a case attended with nothing peculiar in its character or circumstances, in which the treatment was of no avail, and which terminated in death.

I do not expect that this letter will be read with much interest by the members of the medical faculty ; it is not written with special reference to their edification, but with a hope of casting some few rays of light upon a subject of vital importance to another portion of the community in which we live.

Yours truly,
Z. H.

Billerica, March 31, 1841.

CASE OF TYPHUS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—I have drawn up the following account of my late illness for publication, and accordingly place the same entirely at your disposal. I have been obliged, however, to do so mainly from memory; and it is presumed that much of the case possessing the greatest amount of interest has been omitted, as during the first three months I was able to note but very few things, and those of minor importance.

Typhus, in different varieties, has been a prevailing disease here for the last three or four years, and has latterly been unusually fatal. I think I speak correctly when I say that as large a proportion as one out of every five has had a fatal termination—many within a short period of the attack, but, by far, the largest proportion after a protracted illness.

Typhus, if we take into consideration its frequency, the degree of mortality, and its peculiar and differing character, is as much entitled to the careful consideration of physicians as any other disease; and, in my opinion, more so—phthisis, perhaps, excepted. I do earnestly hope that some one, well qualified for the task, will take up the subject and give it a thorough investigation. It is highly important, from its degree of fatality, that this should be done, and I look to those having been most conversant with it for a large number of years as the most properly qualified to undertake the task. We do not want theory alone—we have had quite enough on this topic; let our attention be turned to facts, and I anticipate much in relation to its more successful treatment. Let those who have had much experience and good success come to the rescue of its victims, and I am fully in the belief that my anticipations will be more than realized—to those do I appeal, and I hope not in vain.

My own case has some peculiarities in its termination, not often occurring. I should state here that for some years I have been a subject of chronic hepatitis in a mild form; though, during the last two or three, it had somewhat increased in severity. About two years ago, viewing it my duty, I relinquished the practice of medicine and entered into the mercantile business, hoping to get some relief from a change of the many necessarily laborious duties of the former, for those less so of the latter—though I entertained some fears about returning here, from the fact of the existence of epidemic typhus. Previous to my being attacked with it, I had been in the constant habit of taking more or less exercise, almost daily, either on horseback or in a carriage, when the state of the weather would permit. During the last week in September last, I began to feel many of the symptoms of approaching typhus: as slight chills; considerable pain through the temples, forehead, neck, back and limbs; increased sensibility to cold; turns of sinking and faintness; partial loss of disposition to exertion, with much inclination to stupor; slight tenderness through the abdominal region, with a sensation of fulness, &c. I had been subject to faintness and dizziness, by turns, for some time previous to this, together with palpitations, particularly on making much exertion. I then attributed these feelings to the too free use of snuff—a habit of some ten or twelve years' standing. During the week I spent the most of my time in the store and attended to some business. Saturday afternoon I

went home, a distance of nearly half a mile, with many of the above symptoms in an aggravated form, and had, in addition, chills and flushes; sinking at the epigastrium; trembling; fluttering; sensations of numbness; partial prostration of strength in the muscular and circulating systems; weak and frequent pulse; during the night, by turns, slight interruptions of respiration, and which increased and continued more or less during the first three weeks; much nervous irritation; occasional turns of nausea, &c. Under these circumstances, I applied as large a blister as could be placed on the forehead and temples, another to the nape of the neck of pretty good size, and went to bed. After this, and for a period of six or eight weeks, I did not pay much attention to passing events, nor have I now much recollection of occurrences during this period, there being much stupor and disturbed sleep, though, when pretty thoroughly aroused, I was to a considerable extent sensible of my condition, and able to give directions in relation to the course to be pursued, and perhaps remembered things as long as I was engaged in giving them off to those who took care of me. I should remark here, that I was under the care of a mother and two sisters, who having been sick and seen much sickness, understood much about medicine, and were the very best of nurses. Under these circumstances, together with my own knowledge of medicines and diseases, myself and friends felt quite as safe as under other circumstances. For most of what I have to relate, therefore, during the first six or eight weeks, I am dependent upon those who took care of me.

Most of the time, when asleep, my mind was running upon all previous occurrences and transactions. I was full of all kinds of business—sometimes engaged in that of my profession, attending on the sick, examining patients, and compounding and dealing out medicines. At other times I was hard at work in the store—dealing out goods, making change and charges on book, casting up accounts, making settlements, &c.; and many of my performances were quite amusing to my friends, who delight in relating them to me.

During the second week a diarrhoea came on, and continued more or less severe for about a fortnight, though it was kept under tolerable circumstances by the use of brandy, morphine, marsh rosemary, &c., of which I took more or less daily, and in addition wine of colchicum seeds, spts. nitre, blisters to back, spine, sides, over the region of the bowels, &c., applied in such a manner as to keep up a constant discharge and permanent irritation, and which operated advantageously. As there was much numbness and torpor of the circulating and nervous systems, and coldness of the extremities; I was rubbed often, and frequently with mustard seed and flies, and vinegar, camphor and volatile liniment of double strength, through the whole of this period, and in fact up to this time, with one exception, to be named by-and-by. There was, by turns, much burning heat of the skin, followed by profuse sweats and chills, and a considerable increase of the urinary secretion.

During the first week I was able to sit up a sufficient length of time to have my bed made, but after that I became so much exhausted as to be under the necessity of being lifted from one bed to another, when it was necessary to be moved. Nor had I sufficient strength to turn or move in

bed. During the first two weeks I took two or three emetics of ipecac., and took daily small doses of crem. tart., soda and ipecac. &c., in addition to medicines first named, and which were continued for a period of five or six weeks.

At the end of about the fourth week, my left limb began to swell, and within a period of about two weeks from that time, the whole limb, from the extremities of the toes to the hip, was swelled as full, seemingly, as it could hold; very sore and painful, particularly in the region of the joints. As soon as this state of the limb was discovered, bandages were applied and kept on most of the time. Notwithstanding this, the swelling increased until it seemed as though the skin must burst. At the end of about a fortnight, under the use of the blue pill, morphine combined with conium, bandages, a free use of volatile liniment, flies and vinegar, with frictions, the tumefaction began to abate, and continued to do so for about a fortnight, though the pain and soreness continued quite as severe, and unless I was under the constant influence of conium and morphine, pushed "to the point of relief," was almost insupportable. The nervous irritation also continued. There was great weight of the limb, immobility, much apparent inflammation of the fascia, muscles, and sero-cellular tissue, and undoubtedly the effused fluid was of a sero-albuminous character, and there was also some inflammation of the cartilages of the joints, some floridity of the skin, and at times in spots of a purple hue. After the subsidence of the diarrhoea, the bowels inclined to costiveness, requiring physic once a week, and sometimes oftener. Undoubtedly the inclination to costiveness was greater in consequence of being under the necessity of taking morphine, at the rate of about three grains per day, and about six grains of conium in divided doses at intervals of once in four hours.

From the ninth week till about the thirteenth, I continued about stationary—all that was taken and done did not seem to influence the disease much. At this time I began to apply small blisters to the joints and in the region of them, in such a manner as to keep up a constant discharge therefrom; though before doing so I was somewhat fearful that they would produce ulceration; but after following them up for nearly three weeks, my fears were not realized. The blisters filled as well and healed as kindly as could be expected. This, with a continuance of frictions and other local applications, seemed to make a favorable, though weak, impression. The swelling abated so slow that I almost came to the conclusion that I would not make another effort towards restoration. Here I was, had been confined to my bed between thirteen and fourteen weeks, in an almost helpless condition, exhausted and emaciated in the extreme, disheartened, dispirited, and seemingly on the very border of the grave. After lying in this state awhile, however, I resolved upon one more effort, and consequently called in Dr. Burnham, of Montpelier. He seemed to take a similar view to the one expressed, though of course he did not look so despondingly upon my case as I did. He advised a continuance of former means, and in addition the internal use of Peruvian bark, and the local momentary application of cold water to the limb. I should remark here, that at this time, and for a week or ten days before, I had no fever except what was wholly

irritative. I continued the use of cold water from four to five weeks, and substituted quinine for the bark, and from these I derived material advantage.

Dr. Burnham called on me again, Feb. 5th, and found me in much better spirits. He advised a continuance, and in addition gum guiac. in sufficient doses daily to keep the bowels in a proper state, which I commenced taking immediately. From this time the tumefaction abated rather faster, and I gained in strength some. This course was followed till Feb. 18th, when the use of cold water was suspended.

Dr. B. called on me again Feb. 18th, and by his advice ungt. veratria was applied to the most painful parts of my foot, and continued 10 or 12 days without any seeming advantage. About this time I discontinued the use of guiac., as it disturbed my bowels too much. The continuation of morph. and conium has been worth everything to me, and I derived much advantage from quinine and guiac. They seemed to give a degree of tone and strength that was very much needed. Since then I have been gradually amending without interruption, and was able to sit up about the first of March nearly half the time, though I was not able to bear any weight on my feet. At the last-mentioned date I discontinued everything except the anodyne pill, quinine, the local application of flies and vinegar, bandaging, frictions, a liniment composed of common soap, boiling water, salt and al. rosemary, which I apply twice a day with considerable friction. About the middle of March I was able to bear some weight on my feet, and with the aid of crutches made out to walk across my room; and by the 20th, nearly able to bear my weight on my feet. March 25th, succeeded in going as far as the outer door, and on the 30th went out of doors, the first time for the period of six months.

April 4th. I can now bear the whole of my weight on my feet without much difficulty, and to-day (April 6th) made out to go nearly across my room without crutches, though it was pretty hard work. I have also been out of doors several times to-day. I continue medicines as last named, and probably shall for some time to come.

Respectfully,

East Williamstown, Vt., April 13, 1841. T. GLYSSON, M.D.

INFIRMARY FOR THE CURE OF DISTORTIONS OF THE SPINE AND LIMBS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

I HAVE been much gratified by a visit to the Orthopedic Infirmary in this city, under the care of Dr. Brown. The first impression given by the name of this and similar institutions, orthopedic, seems to be that they are intended for the cure of deformities of the feet only. Whereas the term, derived from the Greek words *orthos* and *pais*, has reference to the making straight the whole person, and not particular limbs merely. It seems to have been but very lately that the causes and modes of cure of distortions of the spine have been the subject of any proper scientific investigation. Various modes of cure have been heretofore practised by empirics, which, though beneficial in some cases, have been extremely pre-

judicial in others. When a practitioner has found or invented a process of cure that has been successful in a particular instance, he naturally concludes that his remedy will apply to all cases. It is accordingly applied in all cases: in some it succeeds, in some produces an apparent but delusive cure, and in others irremediable mischief.

It is not an uncommon case, that mechanics who have been employed in making machinery, set up for themselves, and profess, with the greatest confidence, to cure all cases. And they apply their machinery without any knowledge of principles, with about as much success as would an apothecary who should set up for a physician, and deal out his medicines at random for all complaints. A scientific acquaintance with the human system, and with the different forms and various causes of the disease, is as essential to a successful treatment of distortion, as of any other disarrangement of our animal economy.

The remedies formerly applied to the cure of spinal distortions, have generally been such as, whether successful or otherwise, have produced a vast amount of suffering to the patient. Thus, some have been required to pass months and years, lying almost in one position. Others have been subjected to instruments of torture, not unlike those formerly applied to criminals. Racks have been used with great mechanical power to extend the spine forcibly, and violent pressure applied to reduce the vertebrae to their proper places. The body has been encased in steel collars and corsets, to force it into the right shape, and many other equally violent methods made use of.

By the progress of scientific improvement, these violent applications have been superseded, and more moderate and gentle means adopted, suited to the nature of each particular case. Most distortions arise from a weakness of some of the muscles intended to support the spine, or an undue and partial development of others. Muscles acquire size and strength by use; and become enfeebled, diminished in size, and waste away, by disuse. A girl required to sit a long time in an upright position, on a seat without any support for the back, will relieve the irksomeness of the position by allowing the spine to drop on one side or the other, and thus some of the muscles will be relieved from exertion. Boys standing a long time, get a habit of resting on one foot, generally the left, which produces the same effect. The muscles thus relieved, from want of their due share of exercise, become gradually enfeebled, while those that are kept in exercise become more powerful, and so acting on the spine unequally, a curve is produced, which ends in some one of the various kinds of distortion. An essential part of every plan of cure must be to contrive some mode of giving a moderate and regular exercise to the enfeebled muscles, so as to cause them gradually to acquire the same development and power with the others. The wearing of any machine that supports those parts which need support, relieves these enfeebled muscles from their duty still more, and they consequently continue to grow weaker, and the disease is further than ever from a cure. Lying for months in one position produces a similar effect of weakening the muscles for want of exercise. If a person has a stoop, and an attempt to rectify it should be made by a strap across the forehead, fixed to

force the head back, the effect would be to increase the stoop, because the strap doing the duty of the muscles intended to hold the head up, they would cease to be exercised, would become enfeebled, and when the strap was removed would have less power to hold the head erect than before. Porters in some places carry burthens at their backs with the help of a band passing over the forehead. This backward pressure does not draw them backwards, or make them erect, but makes them crooked, by calling strongly into action, and increasing the strength of the counteracting muscles, those which bring the head forward. The contrary effect is produced by carrying a burthen in front, supported by a band over the back of the head. Light weights carried on the head, do not depress the figure, but give it greater erectness. A horse accustomed to have his head held up by a check rein and resting on the bit, will acquire a habit of carrying his head low, from the loss of power in the muscles whose office is supplied by the bit. But if the bit is made unpleasant and irritating, his exertions to avoid pressure on it will strengthen the same muscles and give him a habit of carrying his head high.

These instances are mentioned only as illustrations of the necessity of contriving to exercise the proper muscles for the prevention or cure of the deformity. Many other circumstances must be attended to in the cure, varying according to the nature of each particular case. And the business of the scientific practitioner is to ascertain the nature and cause of the distortion in each particular case, to apply to the cure of it that skill which he has acquired by a profound study of the subject, by a critical examination of all the modes of relief that have been employed, and of the good and bad effects of each, and a close observation of the cases that come under his own eye. The Orthopedic Infirmary in this city is conducted on these principles. The most improved methods are employed, and suitable machines made use of to enable the patients to perform such exercises as will call into action the enfeebled muscles, as well as to answer the other purposes for which mechanical aid may be required.

April, 1841.

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL.—SURGICAL CASES TREATED
BY J. C. WARREN, M.D.

REPORTED FOR THE MEDICAL JOURNAL BY S. PARKMAN, M.D.

A brief Account of the Cases at present under Treatment.

No. 1, Is a case of antero-posterior curvature of the spine. A man, of 30 years of age, six years since entered the Hospital with paralysis of the lower extremities. During his stay, which was short, a slight projection of the upper dorsal vertebræ was discovered, of which he was himself unaware. He left the Hospital, and his disease has slowly advanced since. At present there is an antero-posterior curvature, involving about half of the dorsal and a few of the cervical vertebræ—paralysis of motion complete, but sensation still remains. The discharges are voluntary but sluggish. The disease is stationary, under a treatment by the horizontal posture and moxas. In this case the bodies of the vertebræ are

undoubtedly attacked and destroyed by an ulcerative process, arising from a deposition of tubercular matter in the cellular tissue of these bones.

2, Is a similar case, of 17 months' standing, in a lad about 12 years of age.

3, Is a boy aged 9, who after an attack of mumps had a scrofulous swelling and suppuration behind the angle of jaw about the size of a pullet's egg. This was opened by a small puncture, and a considerable quantity of flocculent pus discharged; there has been discharged one or two small pieces of cretaceous matter, similar to that found in the lungs—showing clearly the origin of the disease in a local tubercular deposition, excited, perhaps, by the inflammation of mumps. The puncture was made small, with a view to a more speedy closure of the abscess. An internal and external treatment by the salts of iodine is employed in this case.

4, Is an old hydrocele, in a man of about 60. The case was first injected with port wine. This failed, however, and the water re-collected. The sac was then divided sub-cutaneously in three places, in the following manner. A narrow tenotomy knife was passed flatwise between the integuments and the sac; its edge was then directed towards the sac, and this latter divided in three places. The instrument was then turned and withdrawn, and the puncture immediately closed with a morsel of adhesive plaister. This treatment was employed with the view of discharging the water into the cellular tissue and producing adhesion of the sac, by a process similar to that set up after the division of tendons, where the external air has been excluded from the wound. Adhesion was produced in the upper part of the sac, but a small quantity of water re-collected at its lower part. To remove this, an incision of the tunica vaginalis was made at the base of the tumor, which has been followed by an inflammation of considerable severity, requiring several applications of leeches; this inflammation still continues, but a radical cure will undoubtedly be the result.

5, Is a stricture of the urethra, with fistula in perineo of about ten weeks' standing. The obstruction is gradually being overcome by the persevering use of bougies. To-day the bougie, on being withdrawn, was followed by a considerable purulent discharge, probably from an abscess connected with the fistula. This may be considered as a favorable circumstance.

6, Is a very painful inflammation of the tissues forming the wrist-joint, in a man of about 40 years of age. The part is swollen, motionless and painful. A treatment by the salts of iodine, with the application of leeches and opiate cataplasms, and a motionless state of the part by confinement upon a splint, is employed with advantage.

7, Is a young woman of 20, afflicted with double congenital pes equinus and varus. The tendo-Achillis, the short flexors, and the posterior tibial muscles of both sides, have been divided by the sub-cutaneous method; and some advantage has been obtained by these operations, aided by appropriate machines. But the case is one of the severest description of deformity.

8, Is an inflammation of the wrist-joint, consequent upon a sprain

eleven weeks since, in a young woman of 19. She is not of a strong constitution, and there is an evident tendency to a disorganization of the tissues involved. The pain is intensely acute, requiring the employment of opiates externally, with the frequent application of leeches. Suppuration of the parts is constantly threatening.

9. A healthy, unmarried female, of 19, after exposure to cold had an inflammation and suppuration in the cellular tissue lying under the areola of the right nipple, the inflammatory action being limited to this texture. An incision gave issue to three or four ounces of laudable pus, and the parts are returning to their healthy state.

10, 11, and 12, Are cases of no particular interest.

13, Is a hydrocele in a Portuguese, aged 20, from Rio Janeiro, of a year's standing. He states the disease to be very common among his compatriots. The hydrocele being of considerable size, it was not deemed advisable to inject it immediately. A puncture was therefore made with a fine needle, and the water was discharged into the cellular tissue of the scrotum, and there absorbed; the water returned, but yesterday, before it had attained its previous size, the fluid was drawn off by a trochar and canula, and an injection made of about five ounces of a mixture of one part tincture of iodine and three parts water. This was allowed to remain till he experienced some pain along the cord and groin, and then it was withdrawn, some part being retained. To-day the degree of inflammation appears satisfactory, and a radical cure will undoubtedly be the result.

14, Is a case of rheumatic inflammation of the hip-joint, of two months' duration, in a woman of about 30 years of age. It had been attended with considerable inflammatory symptoms, and about ten days since there appeared an cedema, attended with considerable pain of the foot and leg of the affected side. The superficial veins of this part were observed to be turgid, and after considerable examination the saphena vein as it passes the knee was felt hard and tense as a cord; the veins of the thigh could not be distinguished, however, but enough appeared to establish the diagnosis of a phlebitis of this limb, probably from a participation of the venous tissues with those of the affected joint. Pretty active remedies were employed, and she is now considerably relieved.

15. A boy, aged 6 years, after a fever was discovered to be lame of the left lower extremity. Upon examination the limb presented all the marks of a dislocation upon the dorsum ilii—the limb shortened, the toe turned inward and resting upon the opposite instep, and the trochanter felt removed from its natural position, upward. It would seem probable, therefore, that during the fever an ulcerative process had been insidiously established in the hip-joint, and a spontaneous dislocation had been the result; a careful inquiry into the previous history precluding the supposition of any accident that might have caused the deformity. In this case a constant extension has been established by means of an inclined plane and a weight attached to the foot by a rope passing over a pulley at the foot of the bed, while counter-extension is maintained by a band passing from the pelvis and attached to the head of the bed. Considerable advantage has thus far been realized, and the case is still under treatment.

16, Is a girl of six years, with a dislocation of the femur into the fora-

men ovale, of ten weeks' standing; but as this case will probably form the subject of a more full communication, we shall say nothing farther upon it at present.

17, Is a young, unmarried woman, of 23, with an affection of the elbow-joint of two years' duration, similar to the case reported the week before the last, though of less severity. There is a fistulous opening of some standing just above the internal condyle; and although no bone can be felt exposed, the appearance of the fistula leaves no doubt of its disease. She suffers no particular pain, and is treated by the hydriodate of soda, and the application of leeches, and a moxa in the vicinity of the joint.

18. A married woman, aged 40, two years since injured right knee, which has continued lame to this time, although she has continued to walk, but with much difficulty. At present there is an enlargement of the whole joint, caused by a slight effusion into the cavity, and a general thickening and induration of the capsular ligament and other tissues. She is directed to observe complete rest, with the use of leeches and opiate and tobacco cataplasms.

19, Is a firm stricture of the urethra, which will probably form the subject of a more complete communication.

20, Is an oblique fracture of the right femur, about two inches above the condyles, in a man about 60 years of age. He is treated by the straight position, after the manner of Desault.

21. An ulcer of the leg.

22. A young Swedish sailor, after suffering from scurvy, had a necrosis of the clavicle, and the sequestrum was removed the past winter at the Hospital. He has since had a chronic inflammation and suppuration of the periosteum of the sternum, in the neighborhood of its articulation with the clavicle. The osseous tissue was exposed; but by a treatment by the hydriodate of soda and cataplasms, the fistulæ are now in process of healing, and the parts are returning to their normal state.

23. A middle-aged man, about thirteen weeks since, fell from a considerable height, striking upon the shoulders; the accident was followed by a fracture of the right leg, and a complete paralysis of all parts below the chest. He did not enter the Hospital till after the union of the broken bones of the leg; and considerable improvement had already taken place in the paralytic symptoms, as the attaining power over the discharges; all motion and sensibility are, however, completely abolished. He is directed a treatment by moxas to the spine. There is no evidence of any fracture, and the affection is probably a concussion of the spinal cord.

24, Is a contusion of the hip-joint; and 25, a wound of the hand.

26. A man of 60 has suffered many years from an enlarged prostate gland, causing at times retention, and at times incontinence, of urine. He has been several times in the Hospital for the same affection. The treatment consists in the maintenance of a catheter in the bladder several hours per diem, with a view to form a passage through the gland; leeches and tobacco cataplasms to the perineum.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, APRIL 28, 1841.

CONNECTION OF MENTAL PHILOSOPHY WITH MEDICINE.

DR. NATHAN ALLEN, the author of this dissertation, has been before the scientific public, as editor of the American Phrenological Journal, sufficiently long to be extensively known. He is a profound thinker, and his cogitations have reference to the diffusion of truth, without any regard to the observations, the praise or dispraise, of those who may happen to differ from him in matters of opinion. Under the natural divisions of *anatomy, physiology, surgery, pathology, practice of medicine*; and *the importance of a knowledge of mental science to the physician*, we are presented with a series of reasonings, which commend themselves to the understanding—not on the score of novelty, but because they are emanations from a sound intellect, intent upon bettering the condition of man.

With the multitude of claims upon our time, it is quite difficult to do Dr. Allen that justice which his quiet yet important labors demand. But he needs no efforts of ours. Indomitable perseverance, integrity, a manifest disposition to enlighten the ignorant, overcome prejudice, and disseminate correct principles in moral philosophy, cannot fail of securing warm friends and admirers from all ranks of society. With these hasty remarks, we earnestly commend the pamphlet, with the above title, to the critical examination of medical, metaphysical and phrenological readers.

Vermont Academy of Medicine.—Lectures commenced at this Institution some ten days ago, but in the multitude of things that get possession of an editor's thoughts, the circumstance was overlooked by us. It gives us pleasure to speak of the school in its renovated character. Dr. James McClintock, of Philadelphia, an admirable anatomist, is now in the anatomical chair. A better selection could not have been made. Strange he has not before this been placed in some of the colleges in Philadelphia—even if he does not happen to have strong family connections. Dr. Hamilton, of Geneva College, teaches surgery; and he, too, is a special favorite with the medical public. We like to hear that his rare qualifications are appreciated, notwithstanding his pugnacity in all matters touching phrenology. With such discrimination as now especially characterizes the efforts of the new faculty at Castleton, the Vermont Academy may rest assured of the good wishes and countenance of the profession generally in New England.

Letters on the College of Physicians and Surgeons.—A consumptive-looking pamphlet, of 16 pages, by *Graviera Manent*, was evidently intended to make the above institution unpopular, if not odious, with the people of the city of New York. Dr. John Augustine Smith, the president, is the golden calf which the author intends grinding into powder. He is represented as being a manager, which is just about the same thing as being tricky, or, more vulgarly, *cunning*—a bad reputation for any one

to have, but especially so for a professor in a medical school. The fact is, some have the short-sightedness to suppose that the University is to be instantly bolstered into favorable notoriety by traducing the faculty of the old College of Physicians and Surgeons. We cannot quietly hear such a man as Prof. John B. Beck abused, nor suffer his name to be treated disrespectfully by an anonymous assassin of reputation. If the president is half as adroit as is represented, he has pulverized Mr. Graviera Manent before this time, by the mere weight of his thumb.

Report of the Managers of the Lunatic Asylum, Kentucky.—As the Report of the Asylum for 1841 is before us, we cannot very well omit mentioning the fact that it is a kind of paper skeleton—a ship under bare poles—a catalogue of names, that looks more like a list of voters at a country March-meeting, than an emanation from a pet institution of the great State of Kentucky. The last No. of our Journal gave a complete history of this charity—a perverted piece of humanity, and we therefore refer to it for particulars. The whole requires re-modelling and re-fitting, with a scientific medical man at its head, instead of being confided to a student of medicine, whose necessities compel him to accept of a miserable stipend that barely keeps him from starvation.

Death of Thomas Miner, M.D., of Connecticut.—Below, we insert a letter from Dr. Woodward, of the Worcester Insane Hospital, announcing the melancholy intelligence of the death of Thomas Miner, M.D., whose name and professional character are familiar to the medical public of this and other countries. He was the joint author, many years since, with Dr. Tully, of a work on typhus fever, was a past president of the Medical Society of Connecticut, and was distinguished for high literary and intellectual attainments. From the commencement of this Journal, he has been a steady contributor, and has probably furnished a greater amount of original matter, on a variety of subjects, than any other correspondent. We hope to obtain a biographical memoir of his useful life, for publication in the Journal.

"DEAR SIR,—Our mutual friend, Thomas Miner, M.D., died at my residence this morning at half past 3 o'clock. The doctor, as you probably knew, had for twenty years or more been affected with a disease of the heart, which had prevented his engaging in active business. During the winter he has suffered extremely with this disease. Early in March he came on to Worcester to see what could be done to alleviate his sufferings, and, as he said—'if he could not be relieved, to die with his friend.' Soon after he arrived here, we discovered œdema of his feet and ankles, which pointed, too clearly to be mistaken, to the fatal mischief that was lurking within. The symptoms of dropsy were rapidly developed. He was unable to lie down, and spent a large part of each night in his chair. Three weeks ago he took cold, which resulted in pneumonia. This disease was severe, and for some days threatened his life. Quite unexpectedly, he got better, and for a week indulged hopes that he should return to his friends in Connecticut. He did not, probably, from the first appearance of dropsy, expect to recover. The acute disease of the lungs was soon followed by great increase of the disease of the heart and general dropsy, which terminated fatally this morning.

"Dr. Miner was a remarkable man. He has left behind him few as

ripe scholars, profound philosophers and philanthropists, in the medical profession. Ill health having for some years precluded active engagement in professional duties, he has devoted his whole time to study and reflection. His mind was very active to the last. He was perhaps the most learned physician in New England—not only in professional attainments, but in foreign languages and theology. He was acquainted with the French, Italian, Spanish and German languages, and was often employed by publishers in this country to translate them. He was particularly fond of the German, and read works on medicine, theology and philosophy in that language, with great pleasure.

"You well know his estimable moral and social qualities. His heart was benevolent, his feelings kind. In his life he exemplified the Christian character; in sickness and death he bore testimony of unshaken confidence in the Christian hope of a joyful resurrection. Dr. M. was 64 years of age.

In great haste yours truly,

Worcester, April 23, 1841.

S. B. WOODWARD."

Operation for the Cure of Stammering.—Prof. Dieffenbach, of Berlin, has lately turned his attention to the cure of stuttering by means of an operation on the tongue. A memoir on the subject, from his pen, has been translated in London by Mr. Travers, and published. It seems that the Prof. has relieved sixteen stutterers, and others were under treatment. He prescribes three methods of operating. "1. the transverse horizontal division of the root of the tongue. 2. The sub-cutaneous transverse division, in which the mucous covering of the tongue is left inviolate. 3. The horizontal division, with excision of a wedge-shaped portion." "In this operation it is more difficult to prescribe for the individual modifications of each particular case, than in the operation for strabismus, and it can never be performed by one who has not the temperament of an operator: the hæmorrhage must hold all others at a respectful distance. The extent and importance of the operation, the possible danger to life, or loss of the tongue, either through the want of skill in the assistants, who may tear it off when so nearly separated, or through mortification or ulceration of its connecting isthmus—these are contingencies rationally to be feared, and which must be carefully weighed beforehand."

Buffalo Dispensary.—A highly creditable movement of the citizens of Buffalo has resulted in the organization of a medical dispensary on an excellent foundation, that will confer a lasting benefit on the poor of that city. It is to be mainly supported by subscriptions. There is but one objectionable feature in the whole matter, and that is bad enough for those who will be compelled to pull a laboring oar: we allude to the time-honored custom of physicians working for nothing in a dispensary. We have no room for copying the rules and regulations of the institution.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending April 24, 47.—Males, 24; Females, 23. Stillborn, 3. Of consumption, 7—apoplexy, 2—cholera infantum, 1—convulsions, 1—quinsey, 1—old age, 2—lung fever, 3—inflammation of the lungs, 1—measles, 13—fits, 1—smallpox, 3—croup, 1—burn, 1—intemperance, 1—dropsy on the brain, 2—disease of the heart, 3—brain fever, 1—canker in the bowels, 1—inflammation of the bladder, 1—acute bronchitis, 1—dropsy in the head, 1—unknown, 1.

A GOOD LOCATION.

A PHYSICIAN wishing to leave his situation, would be glad to relinquish his business in a pleasant town of 1500 inhabitants. Communications may be addressed to E. W. Clap, P. M., Walpole, Mass., or Dr. George Estabrook.

Rutland, Mass., April 21, 1841.

A PHYSICIAN,

Who has been in practice thirteen years, wishing to exchange his location, would like to associate, as partner, with some physician in extensive business—or to take the place of some one about to retire from the active duties of the profession. The editor may be addressed—letters of inquiry post-paid.

Ap 14—cop6w

A TREATISE ON STRABISMUS, OR SQUINTING,

And the New Mode of Treatment—Illustrated with Engravings and Cases. By John H. Dix, M.D. Just published, and for sale at the office of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, and at the store of William Crosby & Co., 118 Washington street. Price 50 cts. A few copies have been done up in paper covers, so as to be sent by mail.

Ap. 14

TREMONT-STREET MEDICAL SCHOOL.

THE annual instructions of the Tremont-street Medical School, for private pupils, will commence on the first day of September, consisting of lectures and examinations in the different branches of professional study—as follows:

A course of Lectures and Examinations on Anatomy, in September and October, by Dr. Reynolds, preparatory to the Winter Lectures at the Medical College.

A course of Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Surgery, including diseases of the Eye and Ear, by Dr. Reynolds. This course consists of one hundred lectures, and is continued nine months of the year during the whole period of pupillage. Stated examinations are made in the above branches—and private examinations, if desired, of the graduating class.

Lectures and Examinations in Physiology and Pathology, with a distinct course upon Asepsis, by Dr. Holmes, who will also deliver, if time permits, a course of Lectures on Surgical Anatomy during the winter.

A course of Lectures on Midwifery and the Diseases of Women, and weekly examinations on the same branches and on Chemistry, by Dr. Storer. The above course is illustrated by practical manipulations with the manikin. Arrangements have been made to provide the pupils with obstetric cases as often as may be necessary to familiarise them with this branch of practice.

The departments of Theory and Practice of Medicine, and Materia Medica, are under the superintendence of Dr. Bigelow—who will visit the Hospital with the pupils, for practical observation of disease, and clinical instruction. The exploration of the chest in diseases of the thoracic organs, is made the subject of particular attention in these visits.

Practical Anatomy has always been a primary object in this school, and ample provision is made for a permanent supply of subjects from November to April. The teachers will avail themselves of occasional opportunities to show the pupils interesting cases in private practice—and operations in Surgery and Ophthalmic Disease. The pupils may attend daily on the practice of the physicians or surgeons of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and the Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Convenient rooms, light and fuel, are provided by the instructors.

JACOB BIGELOW,
EDWARD REYNOLDS,
D. HUMPHREYS STOKER,
OLIVER W. HOLMES.

Boston, June 24, 1846.

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MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

CENSORS' MEETING.—There will be a stated meeting of the Censors for the First District, at the house of the subscriber, No. 9 Franklin street, Boston, on Thursday, 21st of May, at 4 o'clock, P.M.

A 21—eptm

JOHN JEFFRIES,

Secretary of Censors.

THEODORE METCALF, APOTHECARY.

No. 39 Tremont Row, Boston, is sole agent for the sale of Bull's Philadelphia Gold Pill. He has also the largest assortment of mineral teeth to be found in New England. Together with turnkeys, forceps, drills, files, mirrors, platina, and almost every article used by dentists. English and American surgical instruments, in great variety.

□ Any instrument not in store, obtained to order at three days' notice.

Ap 7—6m

LEBANON SPRINGS.

THE subscribers have made arrangements for the treatment of patients suffering from chronic diseases, whereby they can avail themselves of the powerful auxiliary afforded by the use of the Lebanon Spring water, in the form of cold, warm, vapor and shower bath. The Lebanon water, in purity and temperature, has a strong resemblance to the famous Bristol and Buxton waters, and its remedial power is well attested.

August, 1846.

A. 26.—12t

JOSEPH BATES, Lebanon Springs.
CHILDS & LEE, Pittsfield.

VACCINE VIRUS.

PHYSICIANS in any section of the United States can procure ten quills charged with PURE VACCINE VIRUS, by return mail, on addressing the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, enclosing one dollar, post paid, without which no letter will be taken from the post office.

June 19

RE-IMPROVED ROCKING TRUSSES,

MANUFACTURED at Shaker Village, N. H., and recommended by some of the leading physicians in that State, may be obtained at this office. Price, for the single truss, \$4; double, \$7. A discount to physicians who purchase to sell again.

March 10.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL is published every Wednesday, by D. CLAPP, JR., at 184 Washington St., corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, post paid. It is also published in Monthly Parts, with a printed cover. There are two volumes each year. J. V. C. SMITH, M.D., Editor. Price \$3.00 a year in advance, \$3.50 after three months, or \$4.00 if not paid within the year. Two copies to the same address, for \$5.00 a year, in advance. Orders from a distance must be accompanied by payment in advance or satisfactory reference. Postage the same as for a newspaper.